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The Advocate, November 13, 2003

Minnesota State University Moorhead

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Frogger

MSUM alumnus to study poison dart frogs in Peruvian rainforests

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'Revolutions'

Final 'Matrix' film draws mixed reactions from movie-goers
A&E, page 8



Contenders

All-NSIC center Klukas leads talented Dragon women's basketball team
SPORTS, page 12

Vol. 33
No. 11

www.mnstate.edu/advocate

Thursday
Nov. 13, 2003

The ADVOCATE

An award-winning newspaper published weekly for the Minnesota State University Moorhead community

Quiet Zone stifles train whistles

By BRITTA TRYGSTAD

Staff Writer

Trains whistles are bothersome to many residents and businesses in downtown Fargo and Moorhead but, within the next few years, they can expect a quieter and safer neighborhood thanks to the "Train Whistle Quiet Zone" project.

The project is a collaborative effort by the cities of Fargo and Moorhead, the Minnesota and North Dakota departments of transportation and Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railway companies. The quiet zone project aims to increase safety at all railroad crossings in Fargo and Moorhead and eventually will turn a five-mile stretch of tracks into a whistle-free quiet zone.

The cities of Fargo and Moorhead will fund the project, along with federal and state funding.

Efforts for the project began in 1994, when Congress directed the Federal Railroad Administration to issue a rule requiring the use of train horns at all highway rail crossings. Although the rule has not yet been issued, John Rowell, Moorhead city council member and chair of the rail

issues task force, said if applied, it will affect the economical development along the tracks.

"The train whistles are detrimental to the downtown areas," said Bob Zimmerman, Moorhead city engineer.

Rowell agreed and said the loud train whistles disrupt business and day-to-day activities, even something as simple as trying to carry on a normal conversation on the telephone.

The more important aspect of the project is the safety issue, Zimmerman said. "It will significantly improve safety along the track," he said.

"All the efforts of the quiet zone have public safety in mind. We want our downtown to be safe and comfortable for pedestrians," said Scott Hutchins, director of community and economic development.

The project has been organized into three phases.

Phase one, scheduled to begin in the beginning of 2004, will consist of studying the habits of drivers at crossings. A video monitoring system will be installed that will video tape crossings when a train approaches. "The intent is to get people's behavior at railroad crossings," Zimmerman said.

During this phase, extra police enforcement will patrol the areas along the tracks. "When the gates are down, sit tight," Rowell said.

Fines for violating traffic laws around the track in Moorhead are anywhere from \$110 for driving around the barricades to \$170 for failing to stop at the tracks with a vehicle that is required to stop at every crossing.

During the first phase, safety components, such as extra rail guards and warning signs, will be ordered and manufactured.

By early 2005, phase two will begin. New warning devices, fencing around the rail-quarters, pedestrian gates on the sidewalk and other safety measures will be installed. To limit detours, no more than two crossings will be under construction at one time.

The train companies and the project's organizers are negotiating an efficient way to block traffic from crossing the tracks when a train approaches.

One way to block traffic more efficiently is to add an extra gate to both sides. A total of four gates, two on each side, would block the road. "People

☐ TRAINS, back page



BRITTA TRYGSTAD/THE ADVOCATE

Cars cross the railroad tracks on 8th Street in Moorhead, one of the crossings that will be affected by the "Train Whistle Quiet Zone" project.

Student loan debt increases to \$18,227

By KESLEY TWEED

Staff Writer

The average debt among MSUM graduates has doubled in the past 10 years.

Financial aid director Carolyn Zehren said student loan debt is increasing in alarming numbers.



Zehren

Last year's graduates owed an average of \$18,227 in student loans. That was up from \$17,369 the year before. Graduates in 1993, owed only half that amount, averaging \$9,165 in student loan debt.

Zehren said students are also taking out more loans. MSUM has awarded \$29,163,000 for the 2003-04 academic year. She expects this year's total amount to surpass last year's \$30,366,000. In the 1992-93 academic year, \$21.4 million was awarded.

Zehren said the increase in student loans and debt is dis-

turbing. MSUM tuition rose 15 percent, but she said that was not a big factor in the student loan increase. She said it has more to do with student spending habits.

"When students come to school, they don't have a lot in savings. Students are spending a lot of money. Even if they work, they are spending that too," said Zehren.

MSUM senior Chris Liberda agrees with Zehren. "I wish I would have thought about how I was going to pay for college before I started. I spent a lot of money on stupid things in high school," he said.

Zehren said another factor is the government's shift away from grants and other tuition support. "Students need to be active with the legislature," she said firmly. "We need to shift the financial burden back to the state and away from the shoulders of students."

MSUM alumna Rachael Niceswanger will feel that burden on her shoulders soon. She graduated last May and will begin student loan payments in December.

“

I wish I would have thought about how I was going to pay for college before I started. I spent a lot of money on stupid things in high school.

Chris Liberda
MSUM senior

Niceswanger owes about \$22,000. "I pretty much relied on student loans to get me through school," she said.

Niceswanger said she is consolidating her loans. Assistant financial aid director Linda Tegtmeier said this is a common solution to student loan debt.

"Traditionally it was used to solve the problems of transfer students who have loans from many different lenders," Tegtmeier said. "Now it is more of a refinancing tool because interest rates are so low." She said borrowers pay a fixed interest rate that is the weighted average of all their loans.

Tegtmeier said she thinks the government will change

consolidation regulations in the near future. "The low interest rates are costing them too much money," she said.

Tegtmeier recommends several other solutions for making student loans easier to pay back. She said students should choose a plan that allows the highest payment possible because extending the time frame increases the amount paid in interest.

"People need to remember that paying off their student loans should come near the top of their lists. It should come before entertainment and even before clothing," Tegtmeier said.

She said it's also important not to set the monthly payment too high, which can result in neglecting payments or "default."

Tegtmeier said default can have harsh consequences. "All the loan information is reported to the credit bureau, so not making payments can cause problems with borrowing for a car, getting a credit card, or receiving a loan for a home

☐ LOANS, back page

Scholar to lecture on U.S., Mexico relations

By BRITTA TRYGSTAD

Staff Writer

As part of international education week, Fulbright scholar-in-residence Enrique

Esquivel-Lopez will present a lecture, "Beyond Cultural Identity: A Multi-cultural Approach to Mexico

and U.S. Understanding."

The lecture will ask how we reach a new understanding in different cultures and how we can prove our understanding.

During the lecture Esquivel-Lopez will provide basic information on a multicultural



Esquivel-Lopez

☐ LECTURE, back page

NEWS BRIEFS

Page 2, The Advocate

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2003

Dragons' Den 11.13 - 11.19

Organizational events on campus

11.13
Christian Bible Fellowship Bible studies, 7 p.m., CMU 207.

11.17
Stop the Hate, 6 p.m., CMU 208.

11.17
Public Relations Student Society of America meeting, 2 p.m., mass communications office.

11.18
MSUM's Environmental Action Network, 3:30 p.m., near Café Connection in MacLean.

Get your organization listed in the Dragons' Den. Send us the time, date and location of your next event and watch the people come rolling in. advocate@mnstate.edu

Give blood

MSUM Public Relations Student Society of America and United Blood Services are having a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Dragon's Den.

For an appointment, e-mail prssa@mnstate.edu or sign up by Wednesday in the Peer Adviser Center in MacLean.

A Dragon ID is required and appointments are encouraged.

Career Services provides advice

Career Services is sponsoring a table in the CMU today (Thursday) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Faculty will offer on-the-spot résumé and cover letter reviews, along with information on how to conduct job and internship searches and information on Dragon Careers.

Tug for health, raise money

The Inter-College tug for health is at 7 p.m., Dec. 1, at the MSUM vs. Concordia men's basketball game. It will benefit The Family Healthcare Center in Fargo.

The event features MSUM, Concordia, NDSU and Minnesota State Community and Technical College (formerly Northwest Technical College) students, faculty and staff. It is a tug-of-war contest with two rounds — a preliminary tug and a championship tug.

The first round will be MSUM vs. Concordia and NDSU vs. MSCTC. The winner of these preliminary tugs goes on to the championship tug. The second round (the championship round) determines the winner.

MSUM organizations and departments are encouraged to participate.

Each organization or department may sponsor one of its members. The person tugging (with the help of his/her organization or department) is responsible for raising a minimum of \$135.

The first 16 organizations or departments to respond to Volunteer Visions today (Thursday) will be allowed to participate.

For registration information, contact Volunteer Visions at 477-5874 or e-mail Volvisns@mnstate.edu.

Funds available

Applications are now available at the Office of Scholarship and Financial Aid, Owens 107, for 2003-04 post-secondary childcare funds.

The maximum award amount is \$2,200 for each eligible child per academic year based upon 15 credits enrollment per semester. Funding is available for a minimum of six credits and is based on a sliding fee income scale.

Parking office relocates

The parking office will relocate Tuesday to the maintenance building.

Their new address will be PO Box 24. The telephone number will remain the same, 477-2675.

For convenience, citation drop boxes will be located in the campus post office and also in the campus security building. Citations may also be paid at our new location, where two 15-minute parking spots will be available.

Society hosts poetry slam

The English Honor Society (Sigma Tau Delta) will host a poetry slam at 7 p.m., Nov. 20 at the Red Bear Grill and Tavern, Moorhead.

The society is looking for students, faculty and other community members to read some of their own work.

Rules include a three-minute limit for each person, and judges will choose a select few to compete in the final round.

Cash prizes are awarded to first, second and third place.

If interested in reading, e-mail Aristorz21@yahoo.com or sign up at the door that night.

Seat belt use falls

The latest observational seat belt use survey conducted at 12 locations in Clay County show a 70 percent use rate.

This is a further deterioration of seat belt use rates, which topped out earlier this year at 81 percent. This is in contrast to an 80 percent statewide average. However, this is an increase from 53 percent measured in fall 2002, the beginning of the Click It or Ticket campaign.

The lowest seat belt use rates were recorded at sites

Seminar examines Mideast missions

A brown-bag seminar on "After the Missionaries:

Cultural Nationalism in the Middle East" will be presented at noon Tuesday, by Paul Harris of the history department.



Harris

The seminar, part of a series sponsored by the global studies and international affairs committee, will be held in MacLean 268.

The presentation examines the influence of Protestant missions in the development of nationalism, particularly in the Middle East.

File for senate

Student senate is looking for people interested in filing on the December election ballot — 13 residential seats with a one year term, starting in January, are open.

File for a seat between now and 5 p.m. Tuesday at www.mnstate.edu/stusen.

Elections are Dec. 1 to Dec. 3 online.

near Moorhead High School and MSUM. This represents a problem in the age range where injury and death from vehicle crashes statistics are high. In 2001, only 27 percent of fatalities and 36 percent of severe injuries in the 15- to 18-year-old age range were wearing seat belts.

These areas will be the focus for increased attempts to bring compliance rates up later this month.

The next Minnesota Safe and Sober enforcement wave will focus on seat belt use and will take place between Tuesday and Dec. 1.

THE Security Report 11.1 - 11.9

- 11.1** Bicycle thefts from campus security building
- 11.1** Bicycle thefts outside east Snarr
- 11.3** Theft in east Snarr
- 11.4** Non-injury traffic accident Sixth Avenue South
- 11.4** Bicycle thefts outside of Nemzek
- 11.5** Simple assault at library
- 11.6** Theft at CMU
- 11.6** Theft at library
- 11.7** Handicapped zone violation in parking lot G
- 11.8** Fire alarm in Grantham
- 11.9** Vandalism of property in parking lot N

Hap 11.13 - 11.19 Happenings and Events

- 11.13** Non-teaching interview workshop, 4 to 5 p.m., CMU 208.
- 11.13** MSUM jazz combos perform, 8 p.m., Fox Recital Hall.
- 11.15** MSUM's Children Theater production "Sleeping Beauty," 2 and 7 p.m., Hansen Theatre.
- 11.18** American leather pouch workshop, 11 a.m., CMU 203.
- 11.17** MSUM art students's art display begins, CA Art Gallery.
- 11.18** MSUM's Commercial Music ensembles perform, 8 p.m., Glasrud Auditorium.
- 11.18** Lecture "Beyond Cultural Identity: A Multicultural Approach to Mexico and U.S. Understanding" by Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Enrique Esquivel-Lopez, 4 p.m., CB 109.
- 11.18** "Starting Your Own Business" workshop, 7 to 9 p.m., CB 103.
- 11.19** MSUM Concert Band concert, 8 p.m., Glasrud Auditorium.
- 11.19** American Indian movie showcase, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., CMU 101.

The ADVOCATE

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The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year, except during final examination and vacation periods.
Opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due Monday at 5 p.m. and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at: advocate@mnstate.edu. The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and refuse publication of letters omitting requested information. It does not guarantee the publication of any letter.

"I'm not going to put my name in a university paper that nobody cares about and no one reads."

The Advocate is prepared for publication by Minnesota State University Moorhead students and is printed by Davon Press, West Fargo, N.D.
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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Meetings are held every Monday at 4:30 p.m. in CMU Room 207.
Contact the editor for more information or come to the meetings. Students can also write and work for The Advocate for credit.

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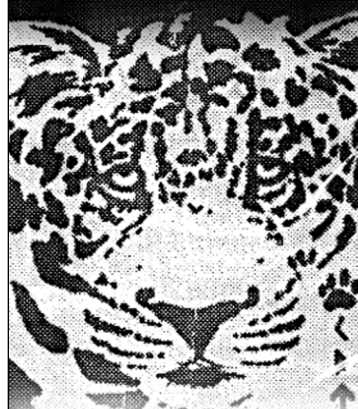
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Biology grad researches poison frogs

By GLENN TORNELL

Special to The Advocate

Kermit might disagree, but poison dart frogs can make entertaining pets.

They come in a rainbow of neon colors. The largest won't get much bigger than a half dollar, and unlike most frogs, they're active in daylight so you can watch them jump, hunt fruit flies with their long sticky tongues and wrestle with each other during the breeding season.

"Just don't put one in your mouth," said Jason Brown, a recent MSUM graduate who'll spend next summer researching the breeding behaviors of poison dart frogs in the rainforests of Peru.

Brown, from Aberdeen, S.D., came to MSUM to study biology, what he thought would be his first step on the path to a medical career. But on a university studies tour to Costa Rica, where he accidentally stepped on a fer-de-lance (one of the most deadly snakes in the Americas), he changed his mind.

After graduating last year, Brown worked as a resident naturalist in a Costa Rica reserve, guiding touring North American college students.

He's now pursuing a doctorate at East Carolina State University in Greenville, N.C., specializing in molecular ecology.

Brown's interest in poison dart frogs began in high school.

"I had a terrarium in my room, and I wanted to spice it up," he said.

"During a trip to Minneapolis, I bought my first dart frog."

Not only did he keep them as pets, he raised and bred them for income throughout his college career. He also collaborated on breeding a shipment of notorious golden poison dart

frogs with Geoff Hall, former director of the Red River Valley Zoo, and donated one of his enclosures to the zoo, which still houses the frogs.

The golden poison dart frog, known in scientific circles as *Phyllobates terribilis*, is an apt name for a frog that holds enough toxins in its skin to kill more than 100 adult humans.

"Pound for pound, it's the most toxic vertebrate on earth," Brown said.

"I wouldn't pick one up in the wild, that's for sure. Especially if I had a cut on my hands."

Of the maybe 130 species of poison dart frogs in Central and South America, he said only three are toxic enough to kill a person by handling it.

Of course, poison dart frogs are merely passively dangerous. "They don't attack or bite people," Brown said. "And the toxic, alkaloid-secretions from their skin are only dangerous if they enter your blood stream, either through a cut, or the mucous membrane of your eyes, nose or mouth."

"When working in the wild, I handle all my frogs, none of them very dangerous, without gloves," Brown said. "Sometimes the toxins turn my hands red, but that's all."

Poison dart frogs get their reputation from the Choco Indians of western Columbia who extract the poisons from the skin of the most toxic frogs to tip their blowpipe darts, which they then use to hunt birds, monkeys and, at one time, enemy tribes.

The bright colors of the dart frogs serve as a warning to potential predators. That coloring, plus their toxicity,

allows dart frogs, unlike most other frogs, to enjoy daylight with impunity.

"What's dangerous to them is the destruction of the rain forests," Brown said.

He'll be working in Peru this summer with Rainer Schulte, an author who's promoting land conservation in Peru by harvesting poison dart frogs for the pet trade, an act aimed at drawing attention to rainforest conservation.

"These frogs tend to overproduce when harvested responsibly," Brown said. "One of the main factors that limit dart frog populations is available breeding pools. So what Schulte has done is create artificial pools by cutting plastic pop bottles in half and hanging them in trees."

Rainfall then creates artificial breeding sites in them. He hires locals to hand the pop bottles, which helps the economy and spreads an appreciation for ecology.

Most dart frogs lay their eggs in the leaf litter on the forest floor.

Unlike other frogs, which leave the tadpoles to fend for themselves, dart frogs nurture their young, Brown said.

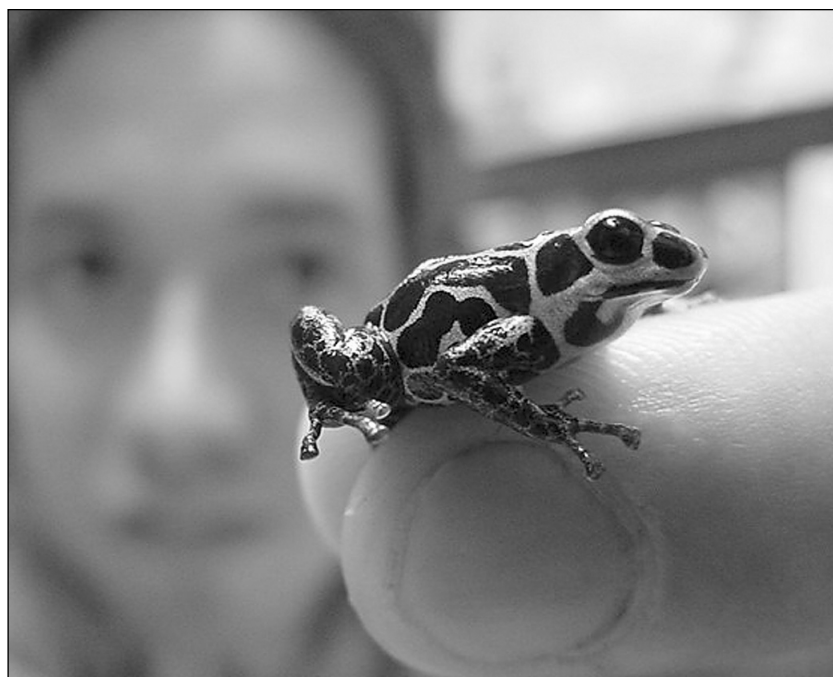
"After the eggs hatch, the male usually carries the tadpoles (up to 10 of them) on its back, depositing them in pools of water that accumulate in leaves of trees. In some species, the females then take care of her young by depositing unfertilized eggs in the pools for the tadpoles to eat."

The tadpoles then morph into frogs, and the cycle begins again.

Brown's research will use DNA fingerprinting to compare the reproductive behavior of



Brown



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brown, a recent MSUM biology graduate, will study dart frogs in Peru.

two closely related species of dart frogs, one with primarily male parental care and the other with both male and female parental care. The goal will be to discover why there are two different rearing systems, what the benefits of each are, and which produces the most surviving offspring.

"Most frog populations, especially tropical species, are declining worldwide," he said. "That's why it's important to understand their breeding behaviors. They haven't been studied much."

Frogs, like canaries in a coal mine, are among the first critters affected by slight changes in the ecosystem, partly because their moist, sticky skin absorbs chemicals from the air and water.

"The golden toad of Costa Rica, for example, became extinct in the late 1980s," Brown said. "It was so alarming because they lived in a pristine rain forest. It turns out that a slight climatic change caused by the defor-

estation in the lowlands, encouraged the proliferation of a fungal disease, which eventually killed off the golden toad."

Frogs are especially important in the search of new pharmaceuticals.

The National Institute for Health discovered that the skin excretions from the poison dark frogs alone offer more than 300 alkaloid compounds similar to cocaine and morphine, offering the potential for creating new pain and anxiety medicines, cardiac stimulants and a host of yet unknown nostrums and remedies.

Although keeping dart frogs as pets can be fun, Brown said, it's not easy.

"They require constant supply of fruit flies, which means you need to breed those flies on your own," he said. "They also require extremely humid conditions, otherwise they'll dry out and die in minutes."

□ FROGS, back page

West Nile hits MSUM student

Davis recovers from unique virus in two-and-a-half weeks

By JOSEPH BOUSHEE

Staff Writer

Sept. 2, 2003, is a day Kyle Davis would like to forget. It was the day he got the first symptoms of a sickness he didn't know he had.

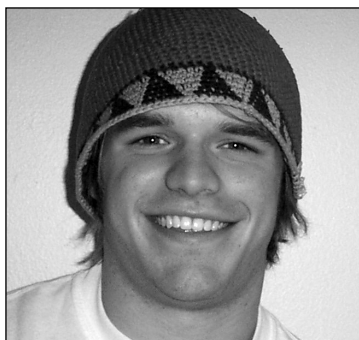
It began with a slight headache. The next day, it was an excruciating migraine. This was only the beginning of a two-and-a-half week fight with the deadly West Nile Virus.

"It felt like my head was being smashed together," Davis said of his worst symptoms.

Doctors at MeritCare performed a CAT scan, an MRI and a spinal tap, and they were still unsuccessful in diagnosing Davis.

In fact, doctors gave him six to eight different possibilities for what could be wrong with him. Some of them included different types of infections and even bacterial meningitis.

It was not until after he was released from a five-day stay in the hospital that doctors



Davis

were able to conclude he had West Nile Virus, a virus transmitted by mosquitoes.

Davis said he was not surprised when he finally received word about his condition. "I've always had bad luck when it comes to weird sicknesses or injuries," he said. He suffered a partially collapsed lung one time while playing hockey.

Being treated with only intravenous liquids in the hospital, there was no other treatment or cure for Davis. He was forced to patiently let his body's natural defenses take over.

"The only thing I could do was wait it out," Davis said.

He went through migraines, nausea and weakness during the two-and-a-half week period. Davis said he was weak for some time and lost 15 pounds in a matter of five days. He also suffered delayed reaction when people talked to him.

Davis said he wasn't too worried about worse things happening while he was recovering from West Nile Virus. "My mom did all the worrying for me," he said.

Derek Huotari, a friend of Davis', said, "I wasn't happy to hear he got West Nile. Not many people can say they have had it before."

According to the Center for Disease Control Web site, Davis' case is one of 135 others reported in Minnesota as of Oct. 22. Another 375 cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in North Dakota.

Davis, a sophomore, is now back in classes at MSUM.

Boushee can be reached at jbousheeusa@yahoo.com.

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Friday and Saturday **Clueless** 1985, Directed by Amy Heckerling
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Planning ahead to pay student loans is hopeless

Worrying about student loans will drive you nuts.

There's simply no point in it. Last year graduates owed 5 percent more in student loans than the year before and nearly twice as much as 10 years ago.

You can really get bogged down in the numbers. Most of us have never seen the kind of money we owe in college loans.

But what can you do, or what could you have done about it? Nothing. So just forget about it. It's time wasted.

Some students say they wish they had planned ahead for college while they were in high school. But who thought about that kind of stuff when they were in high school? We were kids back in those days. We were having fun, getting allowance and working at the local fast-food joint. Nobody was making the kind of money it would take to even pay off one semester of school.

We college students work our behinds off trying to pay for normal expenses. We have to have a life, and that's where our money goes. Most students don't have extra dough to put aside for college loans while they're at MSUM, so they don't worry about it. Balancing class, work and lifestyle is enough of a tightrope walk for us.

Students need to have fun in college. The college years are the bridge between childhood and adulthood. There is so much going on in a typical college student's life; who has the time to start putting money aside for paying college loans?

Don't forget that this was not a business decision on your part. Going to college was a profitable move, but the profit well not be felt immediately.

It's going to take some time, but eventually, you'll be glad you went to college. The experience and the time spent is invaluable, even though the cost is equally as invaluable.

Go out and have fun. We're all going to pay beyond our imaginations when we're done with school. There's no avoiding it. Just accept it, move on and enjoy college life.

Don't get bogged down in the money. You have got the rest of your life for that. Just enjoy yourself, and your time at MSUM.

The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body. The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and Your Turn submissions. They should be typed and **must include the writer's name**, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or e-mailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.



Bad timing for \$50 fee

This past student senate meeting, the gallery was full of students concerned about the \$100 per year fee increase that is going into effect next semester to build a new Health and Wellness Center [HWC] on campus.

One student in particular – my apologies to the student as I have forgotten her name – has started up a petition drive to oppose the process and was on hand to ask the tough questions to the student senate.

As a former student senator, all of this was very pleasing to watch unfold. However, the opponents of the fee increase need to quickly consider their options and everyone needs to consider the class implications of the senate.

I enjoyed my term as a senator. Yes, many of my fellow senators had really silly ideas, and some individual(s) felt it would be humorous to send me notes during the senate meetings as if they were from another senator in hopes of creating a scandal.

However, aside from the fine print, the senate is a body that we can all be proud of. The fee increase was put on the ballot for

Letters to the editor

students to vote upon and it passed but without the necessary student turnout to make it official. After the election results, most of the senators decided to approve the fee increase to build the HWC, and I was one of the few to vote against it.

Why? I love the idea of the HWC, but feel that the timing is not right to rise student fees to pay for luxury items that will leave a legacy for senators. I am not as universally opposed to fee increases as certain citizens are opposed to tax increases.

I support the recent "Green Fee" proposal, because we need to build a cleaner environment through recycling programs and the development of alternative fuel sources. Real harm will occur if we don't take an active role now in repairing the damage that mankind has done to mother earth.

However, the HWC project is a luxury item that can wait for a

time when unemployment and tuition are not as high as they are today. So, what can students do to delay the HWC project for a better time?

The grassroots petition drive is amazing but will not stop the fee increase next spring because the senate already voted on this back when I was a senator and some senators at the last meeting are of the opinion that you can't change ship midstream.

The petition drive only has a chance of being successful if it continues and involves organized, non-violent protests at senate meetings and an ability to link the issue to the upcoming senate election. The petition organizers could try the referendum process by getting the Senate to pass a motion that would put a question on the ballot.

I do not think that an initiative process exists whereby students could force the senate to put a question on the ballot through the successful collection of certain numbers of student signatures. However, the city of Moorhead

□ **BROWN**, page 7

Letter writer not properly informed

Your turn

Whatever happened to journalistic integrity? I was appalled to find in the Nov. 6, Vol. 33, No. 10, issue of The Advocate a letter written by a senior, Brad Meier, about my boss. This letter goes from being about pizza to a personal slam on Michael Wilde, who happens to be the area director for Nelson, Grantham and Holmquist, *not* the Director of Housing. I'm afraid that Mr. Meier didn't really check his information before writing his slanderous letter.

Michael Wilde absolutely should not be held accountable for "deplorable treatment surrounding our ethnic minorities." He happens to be an adviser for Stop the Hate. What situations is Mr. Meier referring to? Housing, with the help of Michael Wilde, has done more for minorities at this university than most people will ever

know about. Stop the Hate is always looking for new members, Mr. Meier. I fully acknowledge the fact that more relevant issues need to be discussed in our paper, but c'mon, we're college students. Sometimes we need a break from talking about world conflict and economic depression.

Brad Meier has no right to talk about Michael Wilde's priorities. He quite obviously knows nothing of what Michael does at this university. With his letter, Michael was simply setting the record straight for the readers of The Advocate.

Michael Wilde dedicates just about everything he has to making

life in the residence halls "more conducive to harmonious co-existence." How dare Brad Meier use the drunken antics of residents against Michael Wilde? As for the discarded alcoholic beverage containers, maybe Mr. Meier could tell his friends and acquaintances that actually live in the resident halls to clean up after themselves, because that isn't our job.

The employees of housing (area directors, complex coordinators and resident assistants) work so hard everyday for the people here. I find it baffling that someone has the audacity to write so negatively about a staff member, especially someone as dedicated and amazing as Michael Wilde.

Deb Anderson
Resident Assistant,
5th Floor Nelson

Latin Fiesta concerts go off successfully

Thanks to the many members of the Minnesota State University Moorhead community who helped make the recent Latin Fiesta concerts by the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony such a success.

The Heritage Dancers added color and authenticity dancing to mariachi music. The audience just couldn't get enough of Dr. Kenyon Williams and the steel drum band Fuego Tropical.

Music director Bernard

Rubenstein loved dancing with audience members to Fuego Tropical's salsa music after the concert.

Thanks also to Abner Arauza from multicultural affairs for his help in arranging the participation of these student groups. They were great representatives

Letters to the editor

of MSU Moorhead, be sure to see and hear them when you have the opportunity!

Jo Kilander
President,
FMSO Board of Trustees
Bill Law
Executive Director,
FMSO
M.A. Music '94
Diane Wolter
FMSO Board Orchestra
Committee Chair

Bush administration should answer questions

I don't do well with the silent treatment. I think we all know what it feels like when we interrupt our girlfriend's babbling about how her parents are divorcing and her mother may have set the family house on fire with a poorly-planned response like, "Baby, I don't care. Now be quiet, I can't hear the radio,"

and suddenly she doesn't speak to you for a stretch of three-and-a-half months. I mean, that's happened to everyone, right?

Anyway, it's awkward when another human being is purposely not speaking to you, even for someone as poor at conversation as myself. So, you can imagine how awkward I feel since my government doesn't seem to respect me enough to let me in on their secret plans to take over the world ... er, I mean ... improve the quality



KELLY HAGEN
Opinion Editor

"How is that a trick question? If 'trick' means 'tough' then, yes, that was a trick question."

of life for every American citizen. I'm concerned with how little information is being shared with the media by our current government, especially in terms of our continuing military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and with the current investigations into what actually happened on Sept. 11, 2001. Maybe I should just go with the popular opinion that ignorance is bliss and just ignore everything my government is doing. However, I've got this pesky thirst for knowledge that's just going to get me into trouble, I'll tell you that.

Bill Clinton once earned the nickname "Slick Willie" because of his ability to slide out of answering difficult questions. President George W. Bush seems to have a different approach, as he doesn't so much try to avoid questions as he absolutely refuses to answer the questions he doesn't like.

Case in point, New York Times White House correspondent Elizabeth Bumiller recently asked Bush if he could promise that, a year from now, there would be less troops in Iraq than there are now. Bush declared it a "trick question" and refused to answer.

How is that a trick question? If "trick" means "tough" then, yes, that was a trick question.

However, I believe a trick question is a question that has no correct or incorrect answer. So, you

“

President George W. Bush seems to have a different approach, as he doesn't so much try to avoid questions as he absolutely refuses to answer the questions he doesn't like.

”

have two possible choices. You can go with the incorrect answer of "Yes, I can promise there will be less troops in Iraq this time next year."

Or, you can answer the question correctly, and say, "No, I cannot promise anything, because the situation in Iraq is so completely beyond my cognitive abilities that I have absolutely no idea what I'm doing. Oh, look! A bird!"

But, if you're Bush, you treat an honest question like an indictment on your reign of the country and deny an honest answer to the thousands of family members who have loved ones risking their lives in Iraq, who deserve to know something, anything, about this situation.

During the 2000 presidential debates, Bush criticized the Clinton administration's military policies by saying, "The force must

be strong enough so that the mission can be accomplished. And, the exit strategy needs to be well-defined."

Okay, let me tell you about my plans for tomorrow. I work from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. I intend to wake up at 6, go through the usual morning routine of hitting the snooze button on my alarm exactly three times, dragging myself into the shower, getting dressed, shoving contact lenses into my eyes and brushing my teeth. I'll drive to work, suffer for 9 hours straight, possibly feed myself halfway through, then drive myself home.

Now, I'm not certain how I will spend my evening, but I will make a few phone calls to friends and see if they would like to do something. If not, I'll sit at my apartment, watch a little TV, do a little homework, perhaps I will polish up my resume for a job that I'm applying for. I'll probably eat another one of those meal things somewhere around 10, because my stomach is lazy like me. Finally, I'll go to bed at around 2 or 3 a.m.

Beyond the events of the morning, my plan isn't that detailed. It's loose and allows for unforeseen changes and adjustments. However, I'd say it's well-defined.

According to the Bush administration, a "well-defined" plan in

Iraq sounds something like Donald Rumsfeld's description of their plan: "Our exit strategy in Iraq is success. It's that simple."

Oh! It's that simple! Okay, then, my new, improved "well-defined" plan for tomorrow is that I will start my day sometime tomorrow, and I will not finish my day until I have succeeded at doing so. At which time, I will don a flight suit and land a fighter plane on my bed while millions of Americans cheer me on as an honest and caring leader. Victory! And, that's all you need to know about my plans for tomorrow; don't you dare ask me about it again, or I'll accuse you of a liberal bias.

While a majority of Americans still believe that the Iraq war was the right thing to do (and I'll abstain from giving my opinion on the matter, considering how I'm in the minority on this one, and everybody knows that this country wasn't founded to serve the interest of the minority), a majority also believes that the Bush administration is badly fumbling up the entire mission.

Make a plan, Bush, and let us know when you do. And, quit smirking every time you talk. You look like a bug just flew up your nose.

Hagen can be reached at wonderful_lie@hotmail.com.

Wellness Center fee is a price worth paying for all students

To me, it comes down to a bottom line: either you're selfish or you aren't. It irritates me to see students think only of themselves when the real issue is much, much bigger than each individual's own checkbooks.

I went to the student senate meeting on Thursday, Nov. 6, to hear the discussion about the \$50 fee for the new Wellness Center. Clearly, the only thing (I felt) that the "protestors" cared about was the "I'm not going to be able to use it, so why should I have to pay?" issue. It's interesting that you care so little about your university to see it not improve, and you want to take away from students that will be attending in the future.

There are several things on this campus that I don't utilize. I

never use the computer labs, yet I pay a computer fee. I rarely attend the various activities, yet I pay that fee as well. Man, I must be getting screwed going to school here.

At the meeting, the person that irritated me the most was the gentleman from the Non-Traditional Student Association. "We represent 25 percent of this campus, and we barely use even the union ..." Blah. Blah. Blah.

A. Just because you're a non-traditional student automatically means you won't use the Wellness Center?

I used to have a membership at the Y. I paid \$30 per month, but had to drop it due to lack of money. I worked out with more people of the "older than average" age group than I did with people

Your turn

my own age. Just because they're older doesn't mean they won't use it.

B. Why should future and/or current students be punished just because some people choose to attend school a little later in life? Why do you get special treatment just because you decided to wait 10 years to attend school?

C. Last, but certainly not least, the only difference between a non-traditional student and a traditional student (someone like myself) is our age.

You decide what you want to do in accordance with the university. You decide how involved you want

to be, and you decide what you want to be and you decide what you have time for and what you don't.

I work two jobs, am involved in several organizations and attend and study for school. I make specific time to see my family and friends, and I struggle financially, physically and emotionally from month-to-month. So, please, don't ask me to appeal to your "non-traditional student" sob story. I'm not listening. The Wellness Center will benefit you exactly like it will benefit me.

I've tried not to be biased, but it's annoying to think that had this fee been implemented two years ago, almost \$2 million would have been raised. That means the students who enrolled as freshmen this year could pos-

sibly have been able to see this building by the time they graduated.

You came to this school for whatever reasons you may have. Since you've been here, I'm guessing you've gained knowledge, friendships and new experiences. I'm assuming if you don't like it, you'll leave, and I'm sure that if you do like it, you'll encourage others to attend. But it's not about you anymore; it's about the university as a whole.

It's about your fellow Dragons. It's about the future of this school. Think about what this university has given to you, and then tell me your precious \$50 a semester is too much.

Jeri Lynn Nelson
MSUM Senior

□ BROWN, from 6

does have a process for both referendum and initiative. This is important because the city is going to have to approve the location of the HWC. However, the entire issue demonstrates a real economic class problem that exists within the senate.

The student senate has had men and women from a wide range of racial, ethnic, national and political backgrounds. When I was a senator there was even an openly gay student on the senate.

Despite the cultural diversity, economic class still remains a dif-

ficult subject to touch, because students that might suffer real harm from a \$100 a year fee increase often don't get involved in senate.

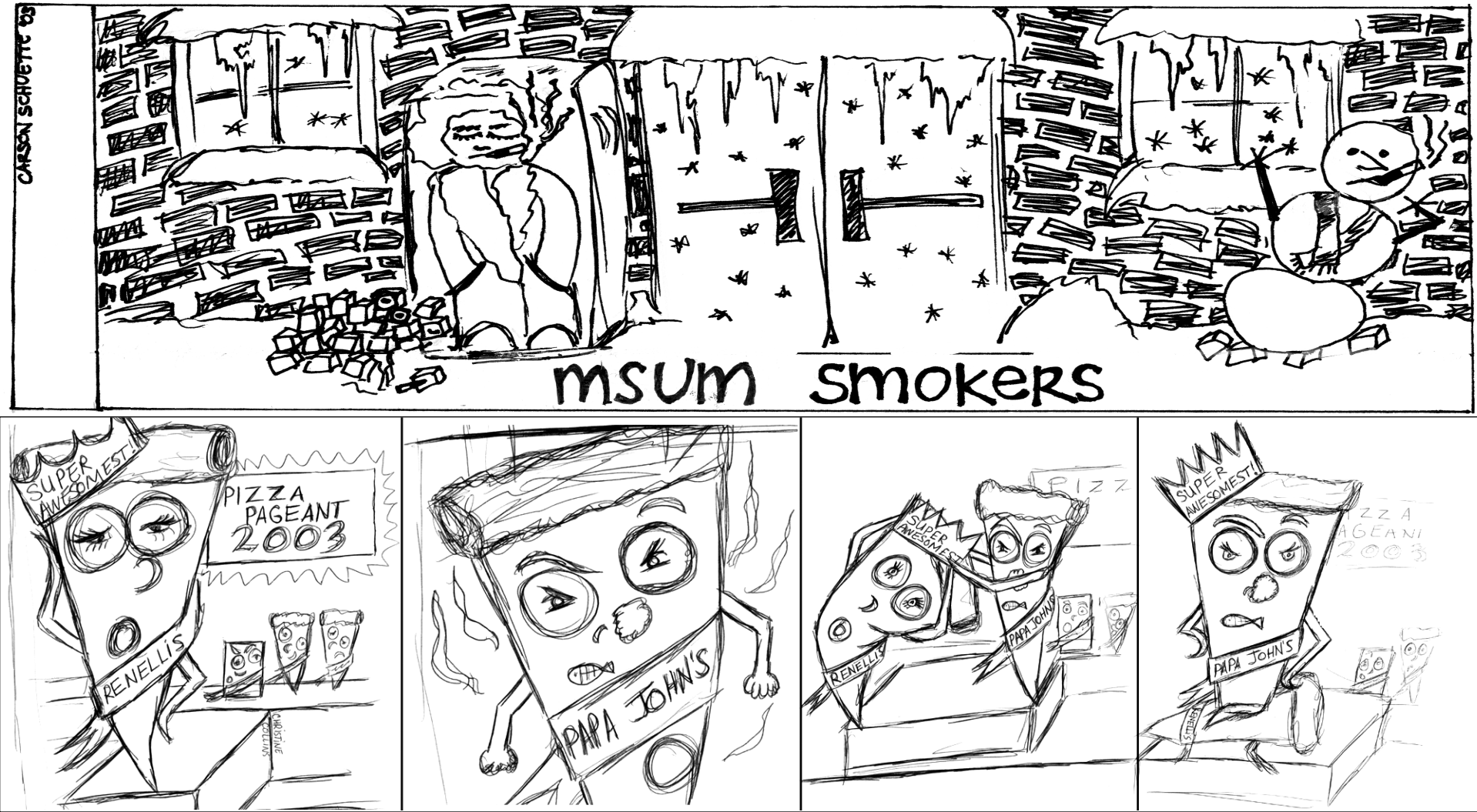
Being a senator is a serious time commitment with no pay for senators and very little for the execu-

tive board and committee chairs. The result is that people who participate in senate tend be students who have the time to dedicate themselves to an activity that is not going to pay for the basic necessities of life.

Regardless of your opinion on

the fee increase, work has to be done so that there is more economic class diversity within the membership of the senate.

Edward T.J. Brown
MSUM Senior



Arts and Entertainment

‘Matrix Revolutions’ hits theaters

‘Revolutions’ disappoints

By **BARBIE PORTER**

Staff Writer

“The Matrix Revolutions” made a high impact at the box office over the week-end, but left many disillusioned.

The plot is so confusing that sub-par doesn’t begin to describe its faults. In fact, the movie really made no sense at all. The audience is continually dropped into situations that seem to have great importance, but the movie fails to explain it to the audience.

Atop of the prominent plot gaps, the movie fails to give an emotional connection to the characters. The four familiar characters still present are Morpheus, Neo, Trinity, and Agent Smith.

It’s as if the writers never considered the fact that if there are no connections to the characters, there won’t be emotions at stake. This concept is kind of important when three out of the four returning characters die. Any emotional attachment the audience has to the characters dates back to the first film. The scenes that should pull at the audience’s heart strings leave a void where there is no sympathy for the characters on screen.

The action is the only saving grace of

the film. The action sequences are so phenomenal that they become the plot. The constant climactic situations move the film forward, making the story gaps quickly forgettable. Unlike “The Matrix Reloaded,” the director stays away from overuse of slow motion photography and poor computer animated scenes. Toward the end, the audience is introduced to the thing that controls the computers attacking Zion. Apparently, this entity admits its own creation, Agent Smith, has become too powerful for it to control. This entity calls off the war to take Zion after Neo defeats Agent Smith. None of this makes sense, but once again it doesn’t matter because the action is obviously the purpose of this film. It’s too bad the writer didn’t take more time to make the following films as good as the first.

It became obvious after the second flick the only one of the trilogy made for credibility and not money was the original.

“The Matrix Revolutions” is a step up from “Reloaded,” but a whole stair case below the original. Save your money until it lands in the cheap Safari seats.

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Two flames for ‘Matrix Revolutions’

‘Matrix’ misunderstood

By **TIM GUSTAFSON**

Staff Writer

The Wachowski Brothers set out to make a film that would intrigue, entertain, astonish and completely eradicate the barrier for action films with “The Matrix” and they accomplished this flawlessly.

Four years later, “The Matrix

Reloaded” was released, continuing the reality-bending storyline and avid philosophy, creating a work of art by itself. With “The

Matrix Revolutions,” Andy and Larry Wachowski closed the book on one of the most powerful, impressive, creative and impeccable trilogies in movie history.

Fittingly, the film begins where “Reloaded” leaves off, continuing the cliff-hanger. Though the well-known “bullet-time” and the beautifully choreographed fights aren’t as frequent in

“Revolutions,” the film focuses more on the plot itself, leaving the dazzling fights to its predecessors (though they are still present). The Wachowski’s create such a grand reality through “The Matrix” trilogy that it amuses at a superficial level with special effects so near-perfect you won’t even notice they are actually special effects and on a profound level that will engross a philosophy major.

Its flaws should not be called flaws, simply minor nicks on a perfect finish. These are really minor, negligible details in the end, but nothing is perfect to one who nitpicks.

Of the audience members who dislike the movie, the most common are those who misunderstood an event, miss symbolism, are annoyed at too blatant of symbolism or completely neglect the storyline altogether. The film requires thought in order to see the true beauty of it, though the special effect eye candy is fantastic.

If after watching “The Matrix Revolutions” and thinking about it, looking at events of the plot you may have missed or talking out things that seemed confusing, you still dislike the trilogy or just the movie itself, you’re perfectly entitled to do so.

But if you’ve seen the entire trilogy, thought about it and tried to understand it, you have to respect it. You don’t have to like it, but a work of genius truly deserves respect.

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Four flames for ‘Matrix Revolutions’

Ferrell spreads Christmas spirit as Buddy in ‘Elf’

By **KIMBERLI JOHNSON**

Staff Writer

The movie “Elf,” jump starts the Christmas season with a story of one man raised with elves and his quest to find his father.

One Christmas Eve, long ago, a baby boy crawled into Santa’s gift bag during his stop at an orphanage. Santa discovers the baby when he arrives back at home after his long night delivering gifts.

Santa decides to keep the baby and raise him as an elf. The story begins here with Will Ferrell’s stunning humor in his role as Buddy. Throughout Buddy’s life,

he always felt there was something different about himself—besides the obvious fact that he was too big for everything at the North Pole.

One day, Buddy overhears some elves discussing the fact he is human. This sends Buddy on an adventure to find his birth father in New York City.

When he arrives to the States, he is still under the impression he is an elf, thus making life in the city challenging for Buddy (a grown man).

While on adventures and trying to understand his newly found family, Buddy takes on the task of making believers out of everyone to save Christmas.

In the end everyone acquires an extreme amount of Christmas spirit. As if that isn’t expected.

This movie doesn’t really have originality. It copies ideas from “Rudolph” and “The Grinch” for the most part. It shares the plot line of a misfit who faces many challenges in life, but in the end saves Christmas.

As for the viewing range, the

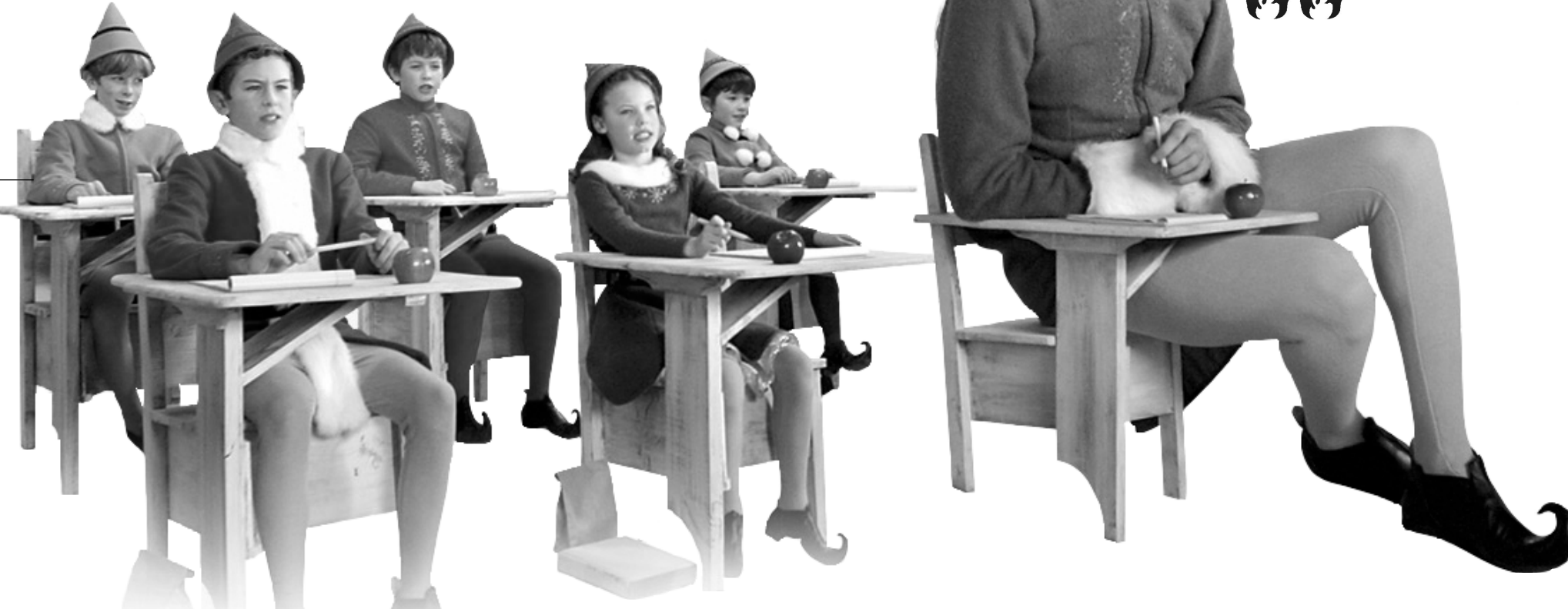
humor of the story is too advanced for young children and yet seemed to be really stupid when presented to a mature audience.

This movie has to be one of the worst Christmas videos made in a long time. I would not recommend anyone to spend the money to see it at the cinema. If it weren’t for Will Ferrell’s excellent acting, this movie would be a total flop.

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Two flames for ‘Elf’



Peterson performs on Gaede

By ELISSA HOVLAND
A&E Editor

MSUM student Neal Peterson is putting on a special concert performance to usher out his CD “Songs for the Whiskey Convention.”

Peterson began performing in 1999, with his then-band Curious Yello as a bassist, but when the band began to go their separate ways, Peterson continued on into his solo career. Picking up his acoustic guitar, Peterson gained what has now become a wide and growing fan base.

Influenced by everything around him, Peterson’s music has a wide variety of sound that ranges from alternative to acoustic folk rock.

His music is mellow and yet highly likable for any type of music listener. With

songs like, “Soul for Sale,” “Las Vegas,” and “American Heart,” Peterson captures a wide span of emotion.

Including his own tracks, Peterson also does covers from Ben Harper, Jack Johnson, Sublime, Weezer and many others.

With all his recent sucess, Peterson has decided to take a break and venture off to Whitefish, Mont., to work on writing and recording new material.

Peterson will perform songs from his new album “Songs for the Whiskey Convention” at 7 p.m. Friday on the Gaede stage. The concert is free and CDs of Peterson’s album will be available after the performance.

Hovland can be reached
at stargazingfish12@aol.com.



Four flames for
‘Songs for the
Whiskey
Convention’

The Strokes heat up with ‘Room on Fire’

By CHRIS RAUSCH
Staff Writer

The garage rock explosion—now two years old and already losing control over its bladder—began with so much promise.

In a time when disposable pop and nu-metal had been littering the radio, the very idea of a low-frills alternative tasted like penicillin in a badly infected musical climate.

Now that the labels have made the movement’s spokespeople multiply like Sea Monkeys, and Hives, Vines and Kings of Leon are as common as banks, the genre has become like those it was hyped up to destroy.

But sometimes, blimp crashes yield survivors, and like the still-evolving White Stripes, The Strokes have constructed a sophomore album, “Room on Fire,” that not only argues for their relevance, it proves how good their supporters insist they are.

It would be gratuitous to claim that “Room on Fire” was a giant leap forward for the band in comparison to their 2001 debut, “Is This It” The two records act like companion pieces in the grand tradition of, say, Pink Floyd’s “The Wall” and “The Final Curtain,” or “The Cosby Show” and “A Different World.” Both embrace a low-fi sheen, showcase guitars that shudder between a jangle and a scratch and feature Julian Casablancas singing as if he’s communicating to someone through a speakerphone.

The songs themselves, in a generic sense, vary little from their counterparts two years ago, with melodies, progressions and hipster ambivalence that are so familiar it’s as if they greet you at the door and then scold you for not stopping by sooner.

Which isn’t to say that the band had no better ideas than to simply record the same album twice. What’s different lies in temperature and philosophy. “Is This It” sounded like autumn—a big city, after-hours record with sex that wasn’t so much fulfilling as it was necessary and overturned ashtrays that crop-dusted the carpet; it was the kind of album you’d listen to after a night of excessive drinking.

“Room on Fire,” then, is what you put on while you’re drinking, and while it might not be beach music, it’s 10 or 15 degrees warmer and there might actually be someone waiting around for breakfast in the morning.

Teddy bears and rainbows, of course, this album isn’t, with Casablancas combing through heaps of rubble with his lyrics. The first song, “What Ever Happened?” opens with the refrain, “I want to be forgotten, and I don’t want to be reminded. You say ‘please don’t make this harder,’ No, I won’t yet.” Elsewhere the glue keeps failing, as on “Meet Me in the Bathroom”—an anti-ode to the quickie—when he sings, “You trained me



not to love after you showed me what it was.” But he’s swinging his hips now, with both his voice and the accompanying music acting as welcome mats rather than windows to peep through.

The Strokes haven’t made a better second record—they’ve made one just as good, and did so by doing little more than putting screws where nails once were. It may not shriek of rocket science, but at the very least it’s advanced botany.

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at complicatedshoes@yahoo.com.



Four flames for
‘Room on Fire’

Aerosmith, KISS rock the Alerus Center

By JEREMY CHURA
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D., was the biggest concert the center has ever seen.

Two of the greatest rock bands shared the stage for one amazing show. KISS and Aerosmith are finally together again to entertain the masses.

Although the bands are co-headliners, KISS took the stage first. Tommy Thayer neglected to perform former lead guitarist Ace Frehley’s signature smoking guitar solo.

The show had bassist Gene Simmons breathing fire during “Firehouse,” Peter Criss’ drum set rising during “Black Diamond.” The main highlight was when Simmons spewed blood and flew to a platform above the stage to perform “God of Thunder.”

The performance by KISS was probably the best pyrotechnics show I have ever seen. They had so much fire and fire-

works the place lit up brighter than a Christmas tree.

KISS opened with the famous “Detroit Rock City,” and when they started playing the intro, they descended from above on a platform and took the stage. They ended their show with the greatest rock and roll anthem of all time, “Rock and Roll All Night.”

After KISS and the crowd got done singing “Rock and Roll All Night,” Aerosmith took the stage. There was not a long wait between sets because the stage was on a revolving platform.

Aerosmith hit the stage with “Mama Kin,” and Steven Tyler was all over the stage right away.

Although Aerosmith is not on the same level as KISS when it comes to actual entertainment, they can still rock hard. They did not have the pyrotechnics like KISS, but you cannot compare them on the same level.



Aerosmith did not play the songs I wanted to hear like, “Dude Looks Like A Lady,” or “Ragdoll,” but they did play “Jaded,” “Pink,” “Love in an Elevator,” “Dream On” and, of course, “Sweet Emotion.”

The band also played a couple of songs from of the new album they are working on. These songs were not like old Aerosmith songs, they sounded blues oriented. The stage setup was not as big as KISS’ and it was hard to understand most of the lyrics that Tyler was singing. Joe Perry’s guitar solo was amazing, as expected.

The best song that Aerosmith played was not the final song but the third from the last, and that was of course “Walk This Way.”

Although Aerosmith’s performance was not as entertaining as the KISS performance, both bands rocked the roof off of the Alerus Center.

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Local bands join forces, perform at Fargo VFW

With so many mainstream concerts coming up in the Fargo-Moorhead area, (Static X at the Playmakers Pavillion Dec. 1 and A Perfect Circle at the Fargo Civic Center Dec. 4) local and regional bands offer a more intimate and relaxed set of performances.

The Fargo VFW is hosting a wide variety of bands at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The performances are open to all ages and cost \$5 at the door.

The featured bands from the local area are Neverwill, When Something Fails and If Looks Could Kill ... I’d Watch You Die. Two other bands will also be present, Dispensing of False Halos from Des Moines, Iowa, and Yuriko from Denver.

SOLES

BAR

Fargo-Moorhead events and performances

11.15

MSUM percussion ensamble presents “Farwell Lou Harrison: A MusiCircus Montage” at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Center for the Arts in the art gallery foyer. The ensemble will recreate a 1960s happening in the form of a John Cage MusiCircus featuring music, refreshments, film, painting and sculptures.

Hot Wax

TOP 30 REQUESTS FROM KMSC

1 MOJAVE 3	Spoon And Rafter
2 JOE STRUMMER ...	Streetcore
3 DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE	Transatlanticism
4 DARKNESS	Permission To Land
5 STILLS	Logic Will Break ...
6 DRESSY BESSY	Dressy Bessy
7 BELLE ...	Dear Catastrophe ...
8 KUDZU WISH	Reverse Hurricane
9 PRETTY GIRLS ...	The New Romance
10 RAPTURE	Echoes
11 A PERFECT CIRCLE	Thirteenth Step
12 IGGY POP	Skull Ring
13 BETH GIBBONS ...	Out Of Season
14 DISTILLERS	Coral Fang
15 MUMMIES	Death ...
16 COHEED ...	In Keeping Secrets
17 ATMOSPHERE	Seven's Travels
18 DAVID BOWIE	Reality
19 SUN KIL MOON	Ghosts ...
20 RICKIE LEE JONES	The Evening ...
21 HIGH SPEED SCENE	F**k N Spend ...
22 PEACHES	Father ...
23 KITTENS FOR CHRISTIAN	Privilege ...
24 YO LA TENGO	Today Is The Day ...
25 BLOODY HOLLIES	Fire At Will
26 SHINS	Chutes Too Narrow
27 ELBOW	Cast Of Thousands
28 PEEPER	Norenberg Park
29 MURDER BY DEATH	Who Will Survive ...
30 PAUL SCHNEIDER	Escape Velocity

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Going for the rebound

Players, coaches expect Dragons to contend for Northern Sun title



Klukas

Liz Klukas, an all-NSIC player last season, will shoulder the bulk of the Dragons' offense this season. The 6'1" senior averaged 12.5 points and 7.8 rebounds last year.



Weibel

Dana Weibel was named to the NSIC's all-Conference second team. Along with doubling her scoring average, Weibel ranked fifth in the NSIC in blocks per game.



Fesenmaier

Jessica Fesenmaier has been the talk of preseason workouts. The 6'3" true freshman out of BOLD High School will see immediate playing time for the Dragons.

By HAYDEN GOETHE

Sports Editor

Following a 13-5 NSIC season, the MSUM women's basketball team enters the 2003-04 season with something to prove.

Despite one of the more successful seasons in school history, the third-seeded Dragons dropped their opening round NSIC playoff game last year to sixth-seeded Northern State University, Aberdeen, S.D.

"If they do need a motivator, that will be it," MSUM women's basketball coach Karla Nelson said.

The Dragons are ranked third in the NSIC preseason coaches' poll and were one of three teams to receive first-place votes.

Expectations are high for the team, with a goal of winning the conference title.

"I think this year a conference title is definitely within our grasp," Nelson said. "I think a conference championship will be one of our highest goals."

MSUM junior guard Dana Weibel said this is the most talented team she's been around as a Dragon.

"We have a lot of depth this year," Weibel said.

The team is so deep that one of Nelson's biggest challenges will be finding time for everyone to play.

"There's so many people that can play," junior forward Lindsay Hartmann said. "We've got starters from other teams coming on to this team and possibly not getting a starting job here."

The Dragons lost only one player to graduation. That player, however, was Katie Doerr.



MSUM vs. SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
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LIZZIE STARK/THE ADVOCATE

MSUM senior guard Kris Wilson maintains possession after a foul by Mayville (N.D.) State University's Mallory Brager during a scrimmage. Wilson missed all of last season with an injury.

Doerr ranks second on MSUM's career rebounding list and fourth on the all-time scoring list.

No one player will step in to replace her. Weibel said it would take a team effort.

"We're all going to do our part and give a little more," Weibel

said.

The Dragons return all-NSIC center Liz Klukas for her senior season, along with Weibel, an all-NSIC second-team selection.

Joining Klukas is 6-foot-3 freshman Jessica Fesenmaier. Fesenmaier has impressed

the MSUM coaching staff with her ability as a freshman and is expected to see immediate playing time.

"She's definitely what I would consider an impact player," Nelson said. "But she is still adjusting to the game itself."

MSUM's backcourt returns Hartmann, Weibel and junior point guard Jackie Doerr, but is bolstered by a number of new players.

Kris Wilson, the Dragons' leading scorer two seasons ago, missed all of last season with an injury, but has returned.

Brenna Rolie, a senior transfer from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D., will share the point guard duties with Jackie Doerr and Brietta Bowerman.

"For the first time, we have good competition at each position," Nelson said.

The Dragons open their season Sunday at South Dakota State University, Brookings. The Jackrabbits won the Division II national championship last season.

"They have a very talented core, but I really think we can play with them," Hartmann said. "That game is going to be about stopping them in transition. They live off their transition and defense. I don't think they have an answer for us in the post."

It's the conference games that matter to Weibel.

"I think a lot of the teams in the conference still don't have that respect for us," Weibel said. "They don't think we have the team chemistry to win. We do have a lot to prove."

Goethe can be reached at hgoethe@forumcomm.com.



Doerr

Doerr will begin her first season without older sister Katie playing at her side. The 5'7" junior led the Dragons in assists per game and was second in steals per game.



Wilson

Wilson, the Dragons' leading scorer in 2001-02, missed all of last season due to an injury. The 5'10" guard/forward averaged 13.3 points per game in 2001-02.



Davis

A 6'3" senior transfer from NDSU, Janna Davis begins her second season at MSUM. The Fergus Falls, Minn., native ranked third in the NSIC in blocks per game.

VOLLEYBALL

Schaffer springs team to home split

By CASEY MOEN

Staff Writer



LIZZIE STARK/THE ADVOCATE

MSUM's Sigourney Schaffer (5) drives home a kill against Concordia-St. Paul Friday at Nemzek Fieldhouse.

The Dragon volleyball team played their final home matches of the season last weekend. MSUM dropped the first match to 12th-ranked University of Concordia-St. Paul 3-0 (30-26, 30-19, 30-24). The Dragons rebounded and won their last match at home to Winona (Minn.) State University 3-0 (30-19, 30-13, 30-26) on Saturday.

"They're a good team," MSUM head coach Tammy Blake-Kath said of Concordia-St. Paul. "They're the top team in the region. Defensively, we could have done a better job."

The Concordia Golden Bears clinched at least a share of its

first conference title with a 3-0 victory over Northern State Saturday.

MSUM continued to play a high caliber of volleyball by pressuring Concordia-St. Paul in three games Friday, but the Dragons were excited to translate their strong play into a victory against Winona State Saturday.

"We definitely had momentum having a loss the night before, because we did play well," Kolbow said. "We were looking to dominate a team."

The Dragons did just that, allowing Winona State to score only 19 points in the first game and 13 in the second.

Seniors Becca Gilbertson, Val Wolf and Courtney Syvertsen played their last matches at

home for the Dragons. Each showed why she would be missed.

With 10 block assists in two matches, middle hitter Wolf ranks third in the conference with 99 block assists for the season. She also ranks second in total blocks with 123.

Wolf has 46 block assists over the last nine matches, during which time the Dragons are 7-2. Wolf needs six block assists to break Mary Sampson's school record (322).

"Val Wolf has been on a mission," Blake-Kath said.

Syvertsen now has over 1,000 combined kills at MSUM and North Dakota State College of

□ VOLLEY, page 13



FOOTBALL

The Dragons host Wayne (Neb.) State College Saturday at 1 p.m. in the season finale. Senior Chad Davison is among the senior class.

VOLLEYBALL

MSUM plays at University of Minnesota Duluth Friday at 7 p.m. in the season finale. The match will be the last for three Dragon seniors.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

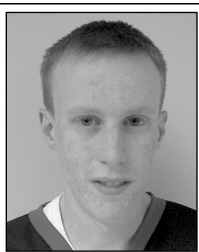
The Dragon women play at defending national champion South Dakota State University, Brookings, Sunday at 4 p.m. The Jackrabbits are ranked third.

LACROSSE

The Dragon lacrosse team plays in St. Cloud, Minn., in a tournament. The team will field few veterans in the tourney.

COLUMN: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's basketball must take next step now



HAYDEN GOETHE

Sports Editor

"It's time to take that next step."

There are two ways to improve a college athletic program: small steps and quantum leaps.

The MSUM women's basketball program has improved step-by-step. In the 2001-02 season, the program reached the NSIC Final Four for the first time. In 2002-03, the team charged through the conference, winning 10 games straight at one point.

Emotions and expectations grew with each victory during the streak, carrying over into the NSIC playoffs.

And then, it happened.

The third-seeded Dragons (16-11, 13-5 NSIC) fell to sixth-seeded

Northern State University, Aberdeen, S.D., (11-16, 8-10 NSIC) at Nemzek Fieldhouse in the first round.

This season, Doerr is gone, but she's the only player the Dragons lost to graduation from last season.

The Dragons have gained one year of experience across the board and welcome the return of Kris Wilson, the team's leading scorer two years ago.

Jessica Fesenmaier, the highly-touted freshman center, is for real. I've watched practice a few times, and her play stuck out. She consistently gave the other MSUM

post players a handful.

With Fesenmaier, there's no concern with her ability. Her greatest challenge will be whether or not she can quickly make the adjustment from high school to college. That's a lot to ask from anyone, especially an athlete.

If the Dragons don't win the conference title, they should be disappointed. They're in as good of shape as they've ever been.

Liz Klukas arguably is the most dominant post player in the conference this season, and the Dragons are comfortably two-deep at every position on the court. There's quality in the frontcourt,

and quantity in the backcourt.

The additions of Fesenmaier, Wilson and transfer Brenna Rollie hopefully will outweigh the loss of Doerr.

Doerr was the team's premier rebounder, but more importantly, the team's leader and spokesperson.

While filling her void will be tough, this team's too talented not to overcome that.

The women's basketball program has progressively gotten better. It's time to take that next step.

Goethe can be reached at hgoethe@forumcomm.com.

FOOTBALL

Another running back shreds Dragons defense in loss

By DUSTIN MONKE

Staff Writer

For the fourth week in a row, the opponent's starting running back had a big day against the MSUM defense. For the fourth week in a row, MSUM suffered a loss.

University of Minnesota Duluth junior running back Dave Ruffelt earned 172 yards on 21 carries and guided the Bulldogs to a 51-20 battering of MSUM Saturday at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis.

Things were looking good for the Dragons near the end of the first half against the Bulldogs, which was playing its final NSIC game against MSUM. Next season, Duluth moves to the North Central Conference.

The Dragons clung to a 17-10 lead late in the second quarter after senior quarterback Jon Frykman rushed for a

touchdown with 3:35 remaining in the first quarter.

"The first half we were doing everything we wanted to do," MSUM wide receiver Chad Davison said.

Then Ruffelt went to work.

The running back tied the game 17-17 on a 1-yard rush as time expired in the first half.

He hit the ground running in the second half.

Ruffelt piled on the points in the third quarter, rushing for two touchdowns in under three minutes.

The first was a 30-yard rush only 46 seconds into the second half. The second was a 6-yard run at the 12:37 mark of the third quarter.

Ruffelt put the Bulldogs up 31-17, and they would never look back.

"We turned the ball over twice and pretty soon it had gotten away from us,"

MSUM head coach Ralph Micheli said.

Davison was the main bright spot for MSUM. The senior earned marks he had been waiting his entire career for.

He finished the game with six receptions for 101 yards. The marks allowed Davison to set the MSUM all-time record in receptions with 124, passing Michael Howard's mark of 123.

"It's something he wanted to accomplish," Micheli said. "He's worked extremely hard to get where he is."

Davison passed Howard in another

category Saturday, becoming the Dragons' all-time single season receiving yards leader with 806, passing Howard's 800 yards in the 1980 season.

"It's nice to go down in school history," Davison said.

Davison's slinger took advantage of the dome atmosphere. Frykman completed 10-of-24 passes for 141 yards.

The Dragons close out the season at Nemzek Field against NSIC foe Wayne (Neb.) State College Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Wildcats and Dragons match up evenly which gives Micheli hopes that his team could close out the season with a win.

"They're going to come in here and play hard," Micheli said. "We've got to play well, we cannot make mistakes."

Monke can be reached at dmonke@forumcomm.com.



MINNESOTA DULUTH 51, MSUM 20

Minnesota Duluth running back Dave Ruffelt rushed 21 times for 172 yards. MSUM wide receiver Chad Davison ranks first in school history in career receptions after catching six passes.

WRESTLING

Kopiasz, Radunz win at NDSU's Bison Open

By HAYDEN GOETHE

Sports Editor

Desmond Radunz and Ryan Kopiasz took home individual titles in Saturday's Bison Open at the Bison Sports Arena.

Radunz, a senior, won the 125-pound title over University of Mary's Aaron Hartnell.

Kopiasz, a senior from Anchorage, Alaska, topped NDSU's Matt Hermann 8-3 to win his weight class for the second straight year.

"This is always a good tournament to see where you are at," MSUM wrestling coach Keenan Spiess said.

Spiess got his first look at the Dragons in competition since taking over as the team's head coach. Spiess replaces John Sterner, who guided the Dragons for 15 seasons before retiring.

NDSU took eight of 10 individual titles at the Bison Open. Five of the 10 championship matches featured NDSU

wrestlers against teammates.

"It was a good tournament," NDSU head coach Bucky Maughan said. "I'll take this any time."

NDSU's Paul Carlson, Mike Fiedler, Thad Pike and Brian Kraemer defended the individual titles they won at last year's Bison Open.

The Bison are ranked first in the NCAA Division II, so expectations were high for them coming in.

"Our expectations are so high, (so) it was a great start for us," Maughan said.

Jamestown (N.D.), University of Mary, Bismarck, N.D., and St. Cloud (Minn.) State University also competed.

Team scores were not kept.

MSUM will hit the mat Nov. 19 at Jamestown (N.D.) College and host Dickinson (N.D.) State University Nov. 21 in further action.

The Dragons are the defending NSIC champions, winning their sixth title in the last 10 years last season under Sterner.

Kopiasz and junior Josh Jansen are defending NSIC individual titles from last year's NSIC Championships.

Goethe can be reached at hgoethe@forumcomm.com.

VOLLEY, from 12

Science. She will finish this season as the team leader in kills and hitting percentage.

Libero Gilbertson has quietly led the team in digs this season with 252. While winning letters in her first three years with the team, Gilbertson has seen her playing time rise significantly this year.

Head coach Tammy Blake-Kath calls Gilbertson an "unsung hero."

"She represents what a team player is," Blake-Kath said. "Those are the kids that make a difference in your program."

"All three of them (seniors) play huge roles on the team," Kolbow said.

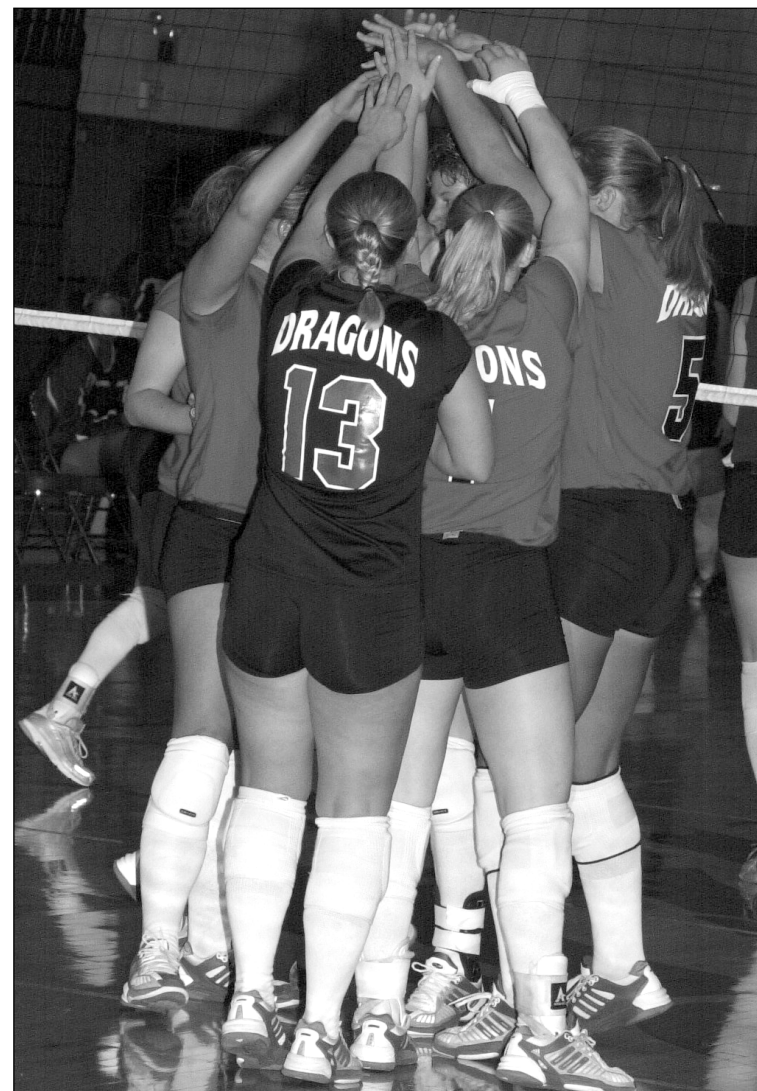
"It's always sad to see the seniors go," Blake-Kath said. "They've made a big impact on our program."

The third-place Dragons (17-12, 9-6 NSIC) will head to Duluth to take on second place University of Minnesota Duluth (24-4, 11-3) Friday at 7 p.m.

MSUM's match against the Bulldogs will be the last of the season.

It will also be the last time MSUM and Minnesota Duluth meet as conference opponents. Minnesota Duluth will relocate to the North Central Conference following this season.

Moen can be reached at caseymoen@hotmail.com.



LIZZIE STARK/THE ADVOCATE

The Dragons congregate in front of the home fans for the final time in the 2003 season Saturday afternoon.

CORRECTION

Last week, the NASCAR trivia answer was Tony Stewart in 2002, not Dale Earnhardt.



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Exchange program unites colleges

Students, faculty compare England's University of Lincoln with MSUM

By KESLEY TWEED

Staff Writer

Students and faculty from the University of Lincoln in England are experiencing life at MSUM.

As part of the University of Lincoln Exchange Program, students from Lincoln University spend fall semester at MSUM. In the spring, MSUM sends representatives to Lincoln.

Faculty members also take part in the exchange. They visit their students who are studying abroad. Lincoln professor Tom Nicholls was a guest at MSUM during the past week.

He said that he's traveled to many places in Europe, but he's never felt more welcome than he did at MSUM. During his stay, he gave two lectures on the topic of public television and visited several sites in Fargo-Moorhead, including Prairie Public Television, the Fargo Theatre, Plains Art Museum and West Acres mall.

Nicholls has also had a chance to compare MSUM's mass communications program with the one at Lincoln. "It's much more impersonal at Lincoln. There's less one-on-

one contact," he said. "But we are very well equipped. We have a fully put-together television studio."

Nicholls said experiencing different ways of teaching is one of the benefits of the exchange program, but the key element is experiencing culture.

University of Lincoln senior Natasha Cauvin is one of the Lincoln students spending fall semester at MSUM. She agreed that the exchange program is a great learning experience. "I think the education is much better here. At Lincoln, we are given assignments, and then we don't hand them in until Christmas. We never have quizzes. Here, we're constantly doing work."

Cauvin said her stay has also helped her professionally. She wants to pursue media production after college. BBC is the only television company in England, which she said makes it difficult to get an

internship. "When I go back, I will be one of the few people graduating with experience," she said.

Cauvin has also learned to "touch-type." She said in England everyone looks at their keys when they type because they aren't taught the same ways as students are in the United States.

She also said alcohol consumption is much different at MSUM than at Lincoln. In England the legal drinking age is 18, and she said going to the "pub" is a part of everyday life on campus.

Cauvin said she has really loved her experience in America. "I'm really sad because the end of the semester is only a few more weeks away," she said. She does admit there are a few things she misses from home, especially English pork sausages.

She said the food is much

different here and that people eat much healthier in England. "There's lots of sugars, salt and fat in the food here. Even though we're trying to eat less, we're still putting on weight," Cauvin said giggling.

With or without her pork sausages, Cauvin said this has been the experience of a lifetime. "I've been to many other places. I've spent summers in France and the Grand Canary Islands off of Africa, but this is by far the best," she said. "You get to know a lot of people your own age, and culturally, you learn a lot more. I really can't put into words how great it has been!"

MSUM professor Wayne Gudmundson helped set up the program. He said about five or six years ago, Lincoln professors came to visit schools across Minnesota, and they found that MSUM was very similar to their university.

"The two schools have a lot in common. They are similar in size, they both have a strong Scandinavian history, and they both have strong broadcast and print journalism programs," Gudmundson said.

The universities worked together to set up the exchange program. Gudmundson has gone to England several times as part of the faculty program. "It's a really beautiful place. It's England's newest college, and it's located on a marina. Then up a hill, there are lots of quirky bars and coffee shops," he said.

Gudmundson said it's a good opportunity for students and faculty. "The experience of international travel is great. Travel is an amazing thing. It broadens your perspective and makes you realize what you have at home," he said. "It's a very good professional addition. There are some things their program does better and some things ours does better."

He said people can learn a lot from the exchange program because they are exposed to another history, culture and language.

Students interested in the Lincoln Exchange Program can contact Gudmundson or international program director Jill Holsen.

Tweed can be reached at kesleytweed@hotmail.com

LECTURE, from front

approach that relates different cultures and understanding.

"The multicultural approach is based on the kind of value and assumptions we have in both cultures. It is the best way we can take and understand each other," said Esquivel-Lopez.

Also, there will be discussion on the kind of questions people ask regarding multicultural approach.

"In the near future, we will not be able to represent ourselves or present ourselves as Americans, Mexicans or Europeans, but as multicul-

tural people because that is the kind of world we live in right now," Esquivel-Lopez said. "I think that in art you can find good examples of the multicultural view. Through music and cinema, there are a few examples how we can work together in this multicultural world."

The lecture will be in English with some resources in Spanish. All Spanish references will be translated into English.

Esquivel-Lopez is a visiting professor through the Fulbright Scholar program. The Fulbright Scholar program began in the 1940s as

an idea to exchange visiting scholars all around the world.

"(The program) improves our knowledge of the world. Part of the experience is what we do here and what we do to build a society," Esquivel-Lopez said.

He teaches intercultural education and Latin American culture. While at MSUM, he is completing his Ph.D. in multicultural studies at the University of San Francisco.

The lecture will be Tuesday at 4 p.m. in CB 109.

Trygstad can be reached at shadowedfire@hotmail.com.

LOANS, from front

someday," she said.

Tegtmeier said delinquency among MSUM graduates is only about 4 percent, but it is creeping up.

"There is really no excuse for delinquency because lenders are flexible and offer many payment options for all income levels," she said.

Tegtmeier said one of the biggest reasons for default is that borrowers think they don't have to pay if they don't receive a bill. She said it is necessary to pay every month, and it's the borrower's responsibility to make sure the lender has his or her address.

"Contact is critical. No one wants to get that phone call saying you are \$1,200 behind in your payments," she said.

Tegtmeier admits student debt is on the rise, but she said communication with the lender is an effective way to deal with the problem.

Tweed can be reached at kesleytweed@hotmail.com.

TRAINS, from front

will not be able to drive around them (the gates)," Zimmerman said.

Another option discussed is to install a 100-foot wide median, three to four feet high, in the middle of the road on each side of the track. In order for this plan to be implemented, the roads must be widened.

The video monitoring system will continue to monitor driving habits. If driving habits improve and people are driving safe, then phase three will begin and the horns will be turned off.

The project is one of the first and is the largest of its kind in the nation, Rowell said.

"(The project will) enhance the safety of the crossings tremendously," Zimmerman said.

Trygstad can be reached at shadowedfire@hotmail.com.

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FROGS, from 3

Also, you should never handle these frogs because they're so small and delicate. Other than that, they're great pets to watch and you can create your own little ecosystem in your house."

Poison dart frogs lose their toxicity in captivity because the poisons that coat their skin are derived from the plants and insects they eat in the wild. That's why using these frogs for pharmaceuticals is so difficult—the captive frogs, separated from their native diet, can't produce the critical toxins.

Poison dart frogs are sold over the Internet or through mail order companies for between \$25 and \$250 per frog, Brown said. Most are captive bred, which means they're not toxic, they're

adjusted to captivity and they're not carrying many of the parasites that wild captured frogs harbor.

"Because they're so expensive, most hobbyists take good care of them," he said. "They can live up to 15 or 20 years."

Brown will do his research this summer east of the Andes in the Cainarachi Valley, 40 miles east of Tarapoto in the Amazon basin.

Brown, who once wrestled with a wild 12-foot boa as thick as his waist just to take a picture, says he's a natural for rainforest research.

"I've been fascinated with reptiles and amphibians since I was a kid," he said. "It's almost destiny, despite coming from South Dakota, that my career points to the tropics."

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